



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: September 20, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District using Proposition A Excess Funds to acquire APN's 4467-002-042, 4467-003-044, 4467-002-044, and 4467-002-060 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail and acquisition of the subject parcels, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District using Proposition A Excess Funds to acquire APN's 4467-002-042, 4467-003-044, 4467-002-044, and 4467-002-060 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail.

Background: Land acquisition for the Coastal Slope Trail from Topanga State Park to Point Mugu State Park is a priority of all the park agencies in the Santa Monica Mountains. The subject portion of the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez and Escondido Canyons is also core part of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Local Coastal Plan Amendment submitted to the City of Malibu.

The Governing Board adopted Res No. 07-106 on July 12, 2007 that authorized entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and OS Dist for eight related Coastal Slope Trail parcels between Ramirez and Escondido Canyons. New opportunities and research led to a need to add four parcels to a potential Project Agreement.

APNS 4467-002-042, 4467-002-044, and 4467-002-060 became available for sale. These parcels are located between Ramirez Canyon Park and Kanan Dume Road. The Governing Board has authorized acquiring an option on these parcels. Discussions with the Third Supervisorial District have led to a draft Board Letter for the Board of Supervisors to include these parcels in an MRCA Coastal Slope Trail grant agreement to be voted on September 25th. The MRCA must have a resolution in place authorizing entering into a Project Agreement for the Board of Supervisors

to take action on the whole package or parcels. APN 4467-003-044, in Escondido Canyon has also been added to that draft Board Letter because that parcel provides another option to bring the Coastal Slope Trail from DeButts Terrace (Ramirez - Escondido ridgeline) to the bottom of Escondido Canyon where there is an existing trail.

The proposed action authorizes entering into a Project Agreement which is a prerequisite for the MRCA to use Proposition A Excess Funds on projects. The plan with the Third Supervisorial District is partner on the key parcels to complete a high quality trail segment for the least capital outlay possible. The acquisition of easements is critical to accomplish this objective.